THE ERIE OBSERVER.

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Erie Weekly Observer.

A. P. DURLIN & CO. PROPRIETORS.

B. F. SLOAN, Editor.

OFFICE, CORNER STATE ST. AND PUBLIC SQUARE, ERIE.

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Fashionable Tailor rooms over the store of Smith Jackson, Cheap Side CUTTING done on short notice.

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Office, one Door west of C. B. Wright's store, up stairs.

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Office with Doct. A. Bell, Seventh near State street, residence, on Sassafras, one door north of Seventh st. Res

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In Walker's Office, on Seventh Street, Erie, Pa

HENRY CADWELL,
Importer, Jobber, and Retail Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Glassware, Cutlery, Hardware, Iron, Steel, Nails, Spikes, &c. Empire Stores State Street, four doors, below Brown's Hotel, Erie, Pa.
Also—Anvils, Vices, Bellows, Axle Arms, Springs, and a general assortment of Saddle and Carriage Trimmings.

S. MERVIN SMITH,
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Coal, Salt, Plaster and White Fish, constantly for sale.

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Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, ready made Clothing, Boots and Shoes, &c., No. 4 Wright's Block, State street, Erie.

BENJAMIN F. DENNISON,
Attorney at Law, Cleveland, Ohio—Office on Superior street, in Atwater's Block. Refer to Chief Justice Parker, Cambridge Law School; Hon. Richard Fletcher, Jonathan L. Boston; Hon. Samuel H. Perkins, 184 Walnut st., Philadelphia; Richard H. Kimball, Esq., 52 Wall street, New York. For testimonials, refer to this office.

MARSHALL & VINCENT,
Attorneys at Law—Office up stairs in Tammany Hall building, north of the Prothonotary's office, Erie.

MURRAY WHALLON,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law—Office over C. B. Wright's Store, entrance one door west of State street, on the Diamond, Erie

C. M. TIBBALS,
Dealer in Dry Goods, Dry Groceries, Crockery, Hardware, &c., No 111, Cheapside, Erie.

JOHN ZIMMERLY,
Dealer in Groceries and Provisions of all kinds, State street, three doors north of the Diamond, Erie.

SMITH JACKSON,
Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Haidware, Queens Ware, Lime, Iron, Nails, &c., 121, Cheapside, Erie, Pa.

WILLIAM RIBLET,
Cabinet Maker Upholster, and Undertaker, corner of State and Seventh streets, Erie.

EDWIN J. KELSO & CO.
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WALKER & COOK,
General Forwarding, Commission and Produce Merchants; Second Warehouse east of the Public Bridge, Erie.

G. LOOMIS & Co.
Dealers in Watches, Jewelry, Silver, German Silver, Plated and Britannia Ware Cutlery, Military and Fancy Goods, State street, nearly opposite the Eagle Hotel, Erie. T. M. Atwell
G. Loomis.

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Wholesale and Retail dealers in Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, Dye-stuffs, Glass, &c., No. 6, Reed House, Erie.

JAMES LYTLE,
Fashionable Merchant Tailor, on the public square, a few doors west of State street, Erie.

D. S. CLARK,
Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Groceries, Provisions, Ship Chandlery, Stone-ware, &c. &c., No. 5, Bonnell Block, Erie.

O. D. SPAFFORD.
Dealer in Law, Medical, school Miscellaneous Books stationary Ink, &c. State st., four doors below the Public square.

DR. O. L. ELLIOTT,
Resident Dentist; Office and dwelling in the Beebe Block, on the East side of the Public Square, Erie. Teeth Inserted on Gold Plate, from one to an entire set. Carious teeth filled with pure Gold, and restored to health and usefulness. Teeth cleaned with instruments and Dentifrice so as to leave them of a pellucid clearness. All work warranted.

S. DICKERSON,
Physician and Surgeon—Office at his residence on Seventh street, opposite the Methodist Church, Erie.

JOHN H. BURTON,
Wholesale and Retail dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Dye Stuffs, Groceries, &c. No. 5, Reed House, Erie.

REMOVED.
Laird & Rust have removed their Store to No. 1, "Wright's Block," where they will be happy to see their customers, and all who may favor them with a call.
Erie, April 12 4t

Select Poetry.

THE WINTER KING.

BY REV. G. V. MAXHAM.

The winds, like reapers with their sickles keen,
Had shorn the landscape of its living green,
And thick the cone-like piles of red leaves lay,
As wheaten stocks upon an autumn day.

Whilst Summer braided roses in the South,
Far in the dreary caves of Labrador
Old Winter by his icy anvil toiled,
And wrought with strange device the chrystal ore.

The swarthy armorer of the battling winds,
A thousand weapons lay around his forge;
The lance, the glittering spear, and helmet bright,
With rounded bale to storm the mountain gorge.

All ghastly red his forge's flames arose,
Like those that smelt the furnace's glowing bars,
And forked as a dragon's darting tongue
They curled and played around the livid stars.

The earth held courtly dalliance with the flowers,
Nor dreamed of conquest on her golden plains,
Whilst, like a Vulcan in his northern cave
Grim Winter forged his bands and icy chains;

And heralded by Eurocly don's blast,
The hoary king came forth in mailed might,
As comes an army on its conquering march:
With serried ranks of spears all glittering bright.

Earth's deities reeled before the dread array,
The sullen sea sent up its dismal wail,
And ships went swirling downward to their graves
As wildly rose an I shrieked the foundering gale.

Fair Summer fled in fright her rosy bowers,
The chirping birds that lulled us to our dreams,
Took wings in cloudy flocks for southern climes,
And seals were on the lips of babbling streams.

And like a dying flame when rocked by winds,
The sun at noon-day flickered to and fro,
As through the yawning rifts of ashen clouds
His light fell coldly on earth's shroud of snow.

But Winter's reign of dread will soon be o'er,
For he begins to soften in his wrath,
And gentle Spring will come to fill his throne
With odorous vines and roses in her path;

And the soft breathings of her balmy lips
Shall thrill to life the heart of old decay,
And on the ruined arch the mildew stain
Shall be concealed beneath the garland gay.

The timid fawn will come again into the vale
To crop its cooling herbs at heat of day,
And happy children oft will leave their games
To hunt in cloistered dells the flowers of May.

And from the earth a great altar shall arise,
Sweet songs of praise, like incense to the skies,
And man shall kneel upon the fragrant sod
And bless in prayer the goodness of his God *Boston Post*

Choice Miscellany.

From Chambers's Journal.

Confessions of an Attorney.

JANE ECCLES.

The criminal business of the office was, during the first three or four years of our partnership, entirely superintended by Mr. Flint: he being more an *fait*, from early practice, than my self in the art and mystery of prosecuting and defending felons, and I was thus happily relieved of duties which, in the days when George III. was king, were frequently very oppressive and revolting. The criminal practitioner dwelt in an atmosphere tainted alike with cruelty and crime, and pulsating alternately with merciless decrees of death, and the shrieks and wailings of sentenced guilt. And not always guilt!—There exists many records of proofs, incontestable, but obtained too late, of innocence having been legally strangled on the gallows in other cases than that of Elizabeth Fenning. How could it be otherwise with a criminal code crowded in every line with penalties of death, nothing but—death! Juster, wiser times have dawned upon us, in which truer notions prevail of what man owes to man, even when sitting in judgement on transgressors; and this we owe, let us not forget to the exertions of a band of men who, undeterred by the sneers of the reputedly wise and *practical* men of the world, and the taunts of "influential" newspapers, persisted in teaching that *the rights of property could be more firmly* cemented than by the shedding of blood—law, justice, personal security more effectually vindicated than by the gallows. Let me confess that I also was for many years, amongst the mockers, and sincerely held such "theorists" and "dreamers" as Sir Samuel Romily and his fellow workers in utter contempt. Not so my partner Mr. Flint. Constantly in the presence of criminal judges and juries, he had less confidence in the unerring verity of their decissions than persons less familiar with them, or who see them only through the medium of newspapers. Nothing could exceed his distress of mind if, in cases in which he was prosecuting attorney, a convict died persisted in his innocence, or without a full confession of guilt. And to such a pitch did this morbidly sensative feeling at length arrive, that he all at once refused to undertake, or in any way meddle with, criminal prosecutions, and they were consequently turned over to our head clerk, with occasional assistance from me if there happened to be a press of business of the sort. Mr. Flint, still, however, retained a monopoly of the *defences* except when, some temporary cause or other, he happened to be otherwise engaged, when they fell to me. One of these I am about to relate, the result of which, whatever impression it produced, thoroughly cured me—as it may the reader—of any propensity to sneer or laugh at criminal-law reformers and denouncers of the gallows.

One forenoon during the absence of Mr. Flint in Wiltshire, a Mrs. Margaret Davies called at the office, in apparently great distress of mind. This lady, I must premise, was an old, or at all events an elderly maiden, of some four-and-forty years of age—I have heard a very intimate friend of hers say she would never live to see fifty again, but this was spite—and possessed of considerable house property in rather poor localities. She found abundant employment for energies which might otherwise have turned to cards and scandal, in collecting, her weekly, monthly, and quarterly rents; and in promoting, or fancying she did, the religious and moral welfare of her tenants. Very barefaced, I well know, were the *impositions* practised upon her *credulous* goodnature in money matters, and I strongly suspected the spiritual and moral promises and performances of her motley tenantry exhibited as much discrepancy as those pertaining to rent. Still, deceived or cheated as she might be, good Mrs. Davies never wearied in what she conceived to be well-doing, and was ever ready to pour balm and oil into the wounds of the sufferer, however self-inflicted or deserved.

"What is the matter now?" I asked as soon as the good lady was seated, and untied and loosened her bonnet, and thrown back her shawl, fast walking having heated her prodigiously. "Nothing worse than transportation is, I hope, likely to befall those interesting clients of yours?"

"You are a hard-hearted man, Mr. Sharp," replied Mrs. Davies between a smile and a cry, "but being a lawyer, that is of course natural, and, as I am not here to consult you as a C[illegible] of no consequence."

"Complimentary, Mrs. Davies; but pray go on."

"You know Jane Eccles, one of my tenants in Bank Buildings; the embroideress who adopted her sister's orphan child?"

"I remember her name. She obtained, if I recollect rightly, a balance of wages for her due to the child's father, a mate, who died at sea. Well what has befallen her?"

"A terrible accusation has been preferred against her!" rejoinded Mrs. Davies; "but as for a moment believing it, that is quite out of the question. Jane Eccles," continued the warm-hearted lady, at the same time extracting a crumpled newspaper from the miscellaneous contents of her reticule—"Jane Eccles works hard from morning till night, keeps herself to herself; her little nephew and her rooms are always as clean and nice as a new pin; she attends church regularly; and pays her rent punctually to the day.—This disgraceful story, therefore," she added, placing the journal in my hands, "*cannot* be true."

I glanced over the police: "Uttering forged Bank-of-England notes, knowing them to be forged," I exclaimed, "The devil!"

"There's no occasion to be spurting that name out so loudly, Mr. Sharp," said Mrs. Davies with some asperity, "especially in a lawyer's office. People have been wrongfully accused before to-day I suppose!"

I was intent on the report, and not answering, she continued, "I heard nothing of it till I read the shameful account in the paper half an hour agone. The poor slandered girl was, I dare say, afraid or ashamed to send for me."

"This appears to be a very bad case, Mrs. Davies," I said at length. "Three forged ten pound notes changed in one day different shops each time, under the pretence of purchasing articles of small amount, and another ten-pound note found in her pocket! All that has, I must say, a very ugly look."

"I don't care exclaimed Mrs. Davies quite fiercely, "if it looks as ugly as sin, or if the whole Bank of England was found in her pocket? I know Jane Eccles well, she nursed me last spring through the fever: and I would be upon my oath that the whole story, from beginning to end, is an invention of the devil, or something worse."

"Jane Eccles," I persisted, "appears to have been unable or unwilling to give the slightest explanation as to how she became possessed of the spurious notes.—Who is this brother of hers "of such highly respectable appearance," according to the report, who was permitted a private interview with her previous to the examination?"

"She has no brother that I have ever heard of," said Mrs. Davies. "It must be a mistake of the papers."

"That is not likely. You observed of course that she was fully committed—and no wonder!"

Mrs. Davies' faith in the young woman's integrity was not to be shaken by any evidence save that of her own bodily eyes, and I agreed to see Jane Eccles on the morrow, and make the best arrangements for the defence that Mrs. Davies' charge, which the circumstances and the short time I should have for a few days—permitted. The matter so far settled, Mrs. Margaret hurried off to see what had become of little Henry, the prisoner's nephew.

I visited Jane Eccles the next day in Newgate. She was a well-grown young woman of about two or three-and-twenty—not exactly pretty perhaps, but very well looking. Her brown hair was plainly worn, without a cap, and the expression of her face was, I thought, one of sweetness and humility, contradicted in some degree by rather harsh lines about the mouth denoting strong and purpose. As a proof of the existence of this last will characteristic, I may here mention, that when her first overweening confidence had yielded to doubt, she, although dotingly fond of her nephew, at this time about eight years of age, firmly refused to see him, "in order," she once said to me, and the thought brought a deadly pallor to her face—"in order that should she worst befall, her memory might not involuntarily be connected in his mind with images of dungeons, and disgrace, and shame." Jane Eccles had received what is called in the country "a good schooling," and the books Mrs. Davies had lent her she had evidently perused. She was therefore to a certain extent a cultivated person; and her speech and manners were mild, gentle, and so to speak, religious. I generally found, when I visited her, a Bible or prayer-book in her hand." This, however, from my experience, comparatively slight though it was, did not much impress me in her favor—devotional sentiment, so easily, for a brief time, assumed, being in nine cases out of ten a hypocritical deceit. Still she, upon the whole made a decidedly favorable impression on me, and I no longer so much wondered at the bigotry of unbelief manifested by Mrs. Davies in behalf of her apparently amiable and grateful protegee.

But beyond the moral doubt thus suggested of the prisoner's guilt, my interviews with her utterly failed to extract anything from her in rebutment of the charge upon which she was about to be arraigned. At first she persisted in asserting that the prosecution was based upon manifest error; that the impugned notes, instead of being forged, were genuine Bank-of-England paper. It was some time before I succeeded in convincing her that this hope, to which she so eagerly, desperately clung was a fallacious one. I did so at last; and either, thought I, as I marked her varying color, and faltering voice, "either you are a consummate actress, or else the victim of some frightful delusion or conspiracy."

"I will see you, if you please, to-morrow," she said, looking up from the chair upon which, with her head bowed and her face covered with her hands, she had been seated for several minutes in silence. "My thoughts are confused now, but to-morrow I shall be more composed: better able to decide if—to talk, I mean, of this unhappy business."

I thought it better to comply without remonstrance, and at once took my leave.

When I returned the next afternoon, the governor of the prison informed me that the brother of my client, James Eccles, quite a dashing gentleman, had a long interview with her. He had left about two hours before, with the intention, he said, of calling upon me.

I was conducted to the room, where my conferences with the prisoner usually took place. In a few minutes she appeared, much flushed and excited, it seemed to be alternately with trembling joy and hope, and doubt and nervous fear.

"Well," I said, "I trust you are now ready to give me your unreserved confidence, without which, be assured, that any reasonable hope of a successful issue from the perils in which you are involved is out of the question."

The varying emotion I have noticed were clearly traceable as they swept over her tell-tale countenance during the minute or so that elapsed before she spoke.

"Tell me candidly, sir," she said at last, "whether, if I owned to you that the notes were given to me by a—a person, whom I cannot, if I would, produce, to purchase various articles at different shops, and return him—the person I mean—the change; and that if I made oath this was done by me in all innocence of heart, as the God of heaven and earth truly knows it was, it would avail me?"

"Not in the least," I replied, angry at such trifling.—"How can you ask such a question. We must find the person who you intimate has deceived you, and placed your life in peril; and if that can be proved, hang him instead of you. I speak plainly, Miss Eccles." I added in a milder tone; "perhaps you may think unfeelingly, but there is no farther time for playing with this dangerous matter. To-morrow, a true bill will be found against you, and your trial may then come on immediately. If you are careless for yourself, you ought to have some thought for the sufferings of your excellent friend, Mrs. Davies; for your nephew, soon perhaps, to be left friendless and destitute."

"Oh spare me—spare me!" sobbed the unhappy young woman, sinking nervously into a seat. "Have pity upon me, wretched, bewildered as I am!" Tears relieved her, and after a while she said, "It is useless, sir, to prolong this interview. I could not, I solemnly assure you, if I would, tell you where to search for or find the person whom I spoke. "And," she added, whilst the lines about her mouth of which I have spoken grew distinct and rigid, "I would not if I could. What indeed would it, as I have been told and believe, avail but to cause the death of two innocent persons instead of one. Besides," she continued, trying to speak with firmness, and repress the shudder which crept over and shook her as with ague,—"besides whatever is a verdict, the penalty will not, cannot, I am sure, I know, be—be—"

I understood her plainly enough, although her resolution failed to sustain her through the sentence.

"Who is this brother, James Eccles he calls himself, whom you saw at the police-office, and who has twice been here, I understand—once to-day?"

A quick start revealed the emotion with which she heard the question, and her dilated eyes rested upon me for a moment with eager scrutiny. She speedily recovered her presence of mind, and with her eyes again fixed on the floor, said in a quivering voice, "My brother! Yes—as you say—my brother."

"Mrs. Davis says you have no brother!" I sharply rejoined.

"Good Mrs Davies," she replied in a tone scarcely above a whisper, and without raising her head, "does know all our family."

A subterfuge was, I was confident, concealed in these words; but after again and again urging her to confide in me, and finding warning and persuasion alike useless I withdrew discomfited and angry: and withal as much concerned and grieved as baffled and indignant. On going out I arranged with the governor that the "brother," if he again made his appearance, should be detained, *bongre, malgre*, till my arrival. Our precaution was too late; he did not reappear; and so little notice had any one taken of his person, that to advertise a description of him with a reward for his apprehension was useless.

A true bill was found, and two hours afterwards Jane Eccles was placed in the dock. The trial did not last more than twenty minutes, at the end of which, an unhesitating verdict of guilty was returned, and she was duly sentenced to be hanged by the neck until she was dead. We had retained the oldest counsel practising in the court, but with no tangible defence, their efforts were merely thrown away. Upon being asked what she had to say why the sentence of the law should not be carried into effect, she repeated her previous statement—that the notes had been given her to change by a person in whom she reposed the utmost confidence; and that she had not the slightest thought of evil or fraud in what she did.—That person, however, she repeated once more, could not be produced. Her assertions only excited a derisive smile; and all necessary forms having been gone through she was removed from the bar.

The unhappy woman bore the ordeal through which she had just passed with much firmness. Once only, whilst sentence was being passed, her high strung resolution appeared to falter and give way. I was watching her intently, and I observed that she suddenly directed a piercing look toward a distant part of the crowded court. In a moment her eye lightened, the expression of extreme horror which had momently darkened her countenance passed away, and her partial composure returned. I instinctively, as it were, followed her glance, and thought I detected a tall man enveloped in a cloak engaged in a dumb momentary communication with her. I jumped up from my seat, and hastened as quickly as I could through the throng of passages to the spot, and looked eagerly around, but the man, whosoever he might be, was gone.

The next act in this sad drama was the decision of the Privy Council upon the recorder's report. It came.—Several were reprieved, but amongst them was not Jane Eccles. She and nine others were to perish at eight o'clock on the following morning.

The anxiety and worry inseperable from this most unhappy affair, which, from Mr. Flint's protracted absence, I had exclusively to bear, fairly knocked me up: and on the evening of the day on which the decision of the council was received I went to bed much earlier than usual, and really ill. Sleep I could not, and I was tossing restlessly about, vainly endeavoring to banish from my mind the gloomy and terrible images connected with the wretched girl and her swiftly-coming fate, when a quick tap sounded on the door, and the servant's voice announced that one of the clerks had brought a letter which the superscription directed to be read without a moments delay. I sprang out of bed, snatched the letter, and eagerly ran it over. It was from the Newgate chaplain, a very worthy, humane gentleman, and stated that, on hearing the result of the deliberations of the Privy Council, all the previous stoicism and fortitude exhibited by Jane Eccles had completely given way, and she had abandoned herself to the wildest terror and despair. As soon as she could speak coherently, she implored the governor with frantic earnestness to send for me. As this was not only quite useless in the opinion of that official, but against the rules, the prisioner's request was not complied with. The chaplain, however, thinking it might be as well that I should know of her desire to see me, had of his own accord sent me this note. He thought that possibly the sheriffs would permit me to have a brief interview with the condemned prisoner in the morning, if I arrived sufficiently early; and although it could avail nothing as regarded her fate in this world, still it might perhaps calm the frightful tumult of emotion by which she was at present tossed and shaken, and enable her to meet the inevitable hour with fortitude and resignation.

It was useless to return to bed after receiving such a communication, and I forthwith dressed myself, determined to sit up and read if I could, till the hour at which I might hope to be admitted to the jail should strike. Slowly and heavily the dark night limped away, and as the first rays of the cold wintery dawn reached the earth, I sallied forth. A dense, brutal crowd were assembled in front of the prison, and hundreds of well-dressed sightseers occupied the opposite windows, morbidly eager for the rising of the curtain upon the awful tragedy about to be enacted. I obtained admission without much difficulty, but till the arrival of the sheriffs, no interference with the condemned prisoners could be possibly permitted. Those important functionaries happened on this morning to arrive unusually late, and I paced up and down the paved corridor in a fever of impatience and anxiety. They were at last announced, but before I could, in the hurry and confusion, obtain speech of either of them, the dismal bell tolled out, and I felt with a shudder, that it was no longer possible to effect my objects. I turned, sick at heart, to leave the place, and in my agitation missing the right way, came directly in view of the terrible procession. Jane Eccles saw me, and a terrible scream, followed by frantic heart-rending appeals to me to save her, burst with convulsive effort from her white quivering lips. Never will the horror of that moment pass from my remembrance. I staggered back, as if every spasmodic word struck me like a blow: and then, directed by one of the turnkeys, sped in an opposite direction as fast as my trembling limbs could carry me—the shrieks of the wretched victim, the tolling of the dreadful bell, and the obscene jeers and mocks of the foul crowd through which I had to force my way, evoking a confused tumult of disgust and horror in my brain, which if long continued, would have driven me mad. On reaching home, I was bled freely, and got to bed. This treatment, I have no doubt, prevented a violent access of fever; for, as it was, several days passed before I could be safely permitted to re-engage in my business.

On revisiting the office, a fragment of a letter written by Jane Eccles a few hours previous to her death, and evidently addressed to Mrs. Davies, was placed by Mr. Flint, who had by this time returned, before me. The following is an exact copy of it, with the exception that the intervals which I have marked with dots, ... were filled with erasures and blots, and that every word seemed to have been traced by a hand smitten with palsy:—

"From my Death-Place, *Midnight.*

"Dear Madam. No, beloved friend, mother let me call you . . . Oh kind, gentle mother, I am to die . . . . to be killed in a few hours by cruel men!—I, so young, so unprepared for death, and yet guiltless of the offences for which they will have the heart to hang me. . . Nobody, they say can save me now; but if I could see the law . . . . buoyed up by lying hopes, till just now it thunder burst, and I—oh God! . . . . As they spoke the fearful chaptor in the Testament came bodily before me—the reading of the villain two's, the terrible darkness, and the opened graves . . . . I did not write for this but my brain aches and dazzles. . . . . It is too late—they all tell me! . . . . Ah, if those dreadful laws were but so swift, I might yet—but no! clearly proved to me how useless. . . . . I must not think of that. . . . . It is of my nephew, of your Henry, child of my affections, that I would speak. Oh, would that I. . . . . But hark!—they are coming . . . . The day has dawned . . . . to me the day of judgement! . . . "

This incoherent scrawl only confirmed my previous suspicions, but it was useless to dwell further on the melancholy subject. The great have fallen, and whether justly or unjustly, would, I fear, be as in many, very many other cases, never be clearly ascertained in this world. I was mistaken. Another case of "uttering forged notes," which came under our cognisance a few months afterwards, revived the fading memory of Jane Eccles' early doom, and cleared up every obscurity connected with it.

The offender in this case was a tall, dark-complexioned, handsome man, about thirty years of age, of the name of Justin Arnold. His lady mother, whose real name I shall conceal under that of Burton, rented a villa for her son's defence, and from her and other sources we learned the following particulars:—

Justin Arnold was the issue of a former marriage. Mrs. Burton, a gentle spirited woman had, in second nuptials espoused a very worldly person, and from time to time had covertly applied Justin Arnold's extravagance. This, however, from the wild course the young man pursued; could not be forever continued, and after many warnings, the supplies were stopped. Incapable of reformation Justin Arnold, in order to obtain the means of dissipation, connected himself with a cleverly organized band of swindlers and forgers, who so adroitly managed their nefarious business, that till his capture, they had contrived to keep themselves clear of the law—the informer tools and dupes having been alone caught in its fatal meshes. The defence, under these circumstances, necessarily a difficult, almost impossible one, was undertaken by Mr. Flint, and conducted by him with his accustomed skill and energy.

I took a very slight interest in the matter, and heard very little concerning it till its judicial conclusion by the conviction of the offender, and his condemnation to death. The decision on the recorder's report was this time communicated to the authorities of Newgate on a Saturday, so that the batch ordered for execution, amongst whom was Justin Arnold, would not be hanged till the Monday morning. Rather late in the evening a note once more reached me from the chaplain of the prison. Justin Arnold wished to see me—not Mr. Flint. He had something of importance to communicate, he said, relative to a person in whom I had once felt great interest. If I understood aright that this Justin might be the "brother" of Jane Eccles, and I determined to see him. I immediately sought out one of the sheriffs, and obtained an order empowering me to see the prisoner on the afternoon of the morrow, (Sunday.)

I found that the convict had expressed great anxiety lest I should decline to see him. My hoped-for visit was the only matter which appeared to occupy the mind or excite the care of the condemned, deserted young man: even the early and shameful termination of his own life on the morrow he seemed to be utterly reckless of.—Thus prepared, I was therefore surprised at the scene which awaited me in the prisoner's cell, where I found him in angry altercation with the pale, affrighted chaplain.

I had never seen Justin Arnold before; this I was convinced of the instant I saw him: but he knew, and greeted me instantly by name. His swarthy, excited features were flushed and hungry, and after briefly thanking me for complying with his wishes, he added in a violent, rapid tone, "This good man has been teazing me. He says and truly, that I have defied God by my life, and now he wishes me to make that inscrutable Being, on the eve of death, by words without sense, meaning, or truth."

"No, no, no!" ejaculated the reverend gentleman, "I exhorted you to true repentance, to peace, charity: to"—

"True repentance, peace, charity!" broke in the prisoner with a scornful burst; "when my heart is full of rage, and bitterness and despair! Give me *time* for true repentance which you say is so needful—time to live back long since vanquished hope, and peace, and faith! Poh!—you flout me with words without meaning. I am unfit, you say for the presence of men, but quite fit for that of God, before whom you are about to arrogantly cast me! Bear up; my deeds upon my head. It is at least not my fault that I am hurled to Judgment before the Eternal Judge himself commanded my presence there!"

"He may be unworthy to live," murmured the scared chaplain, "but oh, how utterly unfit to die!"

"That is true," rejoined Justin Arnold with undiminished vehemence. "Those, if you will, are words of truth and sense: go you and preach them to the makers and executioners of the Highest law. In the meantime I would speak privately with this gentleman."

The reverend pastor, with a mute gesture of compassion, sorrow and regret, was about to leave the cell, when he was stayed by the prisoner, who exclaimed,

"Now I think of it, you had better, sir, remain. The statement I am about to make cannot, for the sake of the victim's reputation and for her friend's sake, have too many witnesses. You both remember Jane Eccles!"

A broken exclamation from both of us answered him, and he quickly added—"Ah, you already guess the truth I see. Well, I do not wonder you should start and turn pale. It was a cruel, shameless deed—a dastardly murder if there was ever one. In as few words as possible so you interrupt me not, I will relate my share in the attrocious business." He spoke rapidly, and once or twice during the brief recital the moistened eye and husky voice betrayed emotions which his pride would have concealed.

"Jane and I were born in Hertfordshire, within a short distance of each other. I knew her from a child. She was better off then, I worse than we subsequently became—she by her father's bankruptcy—I by my mother's by Mrs. Barton's wealthy marriage. She was about nineteen, I twenty-four, when I left the country for London. That she loved me with all the fervor of a trusting woman I well knew, and I had, too, for some time known that she must be either honorably wooed or not at all. This with me was out of the question, and as I told you I came about that time to London. You can, I daresay, imagine the rest. We were—I and my friends I mean—at a loss for agents to dispose of our wares, and at the same time pressed for money. I met Jane Eccles by accident. Genteel, of graceful address and winning manners, she was just fitted for our purpose. I feigned re-awakened love, proffered marriage, and a home across the Atlantic, as soon as certain trifling but troublesome affairs which constantly harrassed me were arranged. I got her to change a considerable number of notes under various pretexes, but that they were forged she had not and could not have the remotest suspicion. You know the catastrophe.

"After her apprehension I visited this prison as her brother, and buoyed her to the last, with allusions of certain pardon and release, whatever, the verdict, through the influence of my wealthy father-in-law, of our immediate union afterwards, and tranquil American home. It is needless to say more. She trusted me, and I sacrificed her—less flagrant instances of a like nature occur every day. And now, gentleme. I would be alone."

"Remorseless villain!" I could not help exclaiming under my breath as he moved away.

He turned quickly back, and looking me in the face, without the slightest anger, said,—

"An example villian if you like—not remorseless one; her death alone sits near, and troubles me, to all else hardened conscience. And let me tell you, reverend sir," he continued, resuming his former lofty firmness as he addressed the chaplain—"let me tell you that it was not the solemn words of the judge the other day, but her pale, reproachful image, standing suddenly beside me in the dock, just as she looked when I passed my last deception on her, that caused that tremor and affright, complacently attributed by that fine functionary to his own sepulchral eloquence. After all, her death cannot be exclusively laid to my charge. Those who tried her would not believe her story, and yet it was as true as death. Had they not been so confident in their own unerring wisdom, they might have doomed her to some punishment short of the scaffold, and could now have retrieved their error. But I am sure, and would, I repeat, be alone. Farewell." He threw himself on the rude pallet, and was firmly withdrew.

A paper confiding Justin Arnold's declaration was forwarded to the secretary of state, and duly acknowledged, accompanied by an official expression of mild regret that it had not been made in time to save the life of Jane Eccles. No further notice was taken of the matter, and the record of the young woman's judicial sacrifice still doubtless encumbers the archives of the Home Office, forming, with numerous others of like character, the dark, sanguine background upon which the achievements of the great and good men who so successfully purged the old Draconic code, that now a faint vestige only of the old barbarism would stand out in bright relief and change less last.

New Kind of Man.

A stranger was picked up at the end of last year in a small village of the district of Lebus, near Frankfort-on-the-Oder, whither he had wandered no one could tell whence. Such a circumstance would hardly have piqued curiosity in another country; but to a people fond of speculation, and situated far away from the great highways of the world, there was something strange and startling in the fact that the stranger spoke German imperfectly and had with the marks of a Caucasian origin! Whether the man was a common impostor and tricked the villagers out of crowns, or whether these worthies began, in their rural way, to construct a history from him "out of the depths of their moral consciousness," is uncertain: at all events, they looked on him as a great prize, and carried him to Frankfort. On being questioned by the burgomaster of that enlightened city, the stranger said his name was Jophar Vorin, and that he came from a country called Laxaria, situated in the portion of the world called Sakria. He understands, it is affirmed, none of the European languages (except we must suppose, the broken German,) but reads and writes what he calls the Laxarian and Abram an tongues. The letter he declares to be the written language of the clerical order in Laxaria, the other the common language of his people. He says that his religion is Christian in form and doctrine, and that it is called Ispatian. Laxaria he represents to be many hundred miles from Europe, and separated by vast oceans from it. His purpose in coming to Europe, he alleges, was to seek a long-lost brother: but he suffered shipwreck on the voyage—where, he does not know,—nor can he trace his route on shore on any map of globe. He claims for his unknown race a considerable share of geographical knowledge. The five great compartments of the earth he calls Sakria, Aliar, Aslar, Auslar, and Euplar. The sages of Frankford-on-the-Oder, after much examination of the tale and its bearer, have come to the conclusion that it is true. Some men believe things because they are incredible. However, Jophar Vorin has been carefully despatched to Berlin, and is now the subject of much scientific and curious gossip in the Prussian capital. What mystification hides under the story, time will probably show.—*London Athenæum.*

Tenacity of Life.—Dr. Franklin gives a singular story of a fly which, having taken up its quarters in a pipe of Madeira, lay torpid there, perhaps for years, and ultimately came to life when taken out of the wine, and placed in the rays of a Philadelphia sun. A still more marvellous instance of resuscitation occurred lately in the British Museum. An Egyptian snail, which had been glued to a card for four years, confined in a close glass case, actually came to life, and was found crawling about in his narrow domicile, to the great astonishment of his curator.

☞ An attorney in Dublin having died exceedingly poor, a shilling sub

Erie Weekly Observer.

ERIE, PA.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 17, 1851.

☞ On motion of Thomas H. Sill, Esq., A. M. Judson, associate Editor of the *Chronicle*, was admitted on Friday of last week to the Bar of this county. We congratulate our cotemporary on his advent among the luminaries of the legal profession, and trust he will find it much more profitable than presiding over the columns of a newspaper.

The Ohio Railroad.

On application of Hon. John Galbraith, President of the Franklin Canal Company's road to the Ohio line, the Court, on Friday of last week, appointed William Bracken, of Lebeuff; Wm. E. Marvin, of Greenfield; C. H. Vincent, of Waterford; Robert Gray, of Union; John R. Rouse, of Wattsburgh; J. G. Stranahan, of Concord; and Martin Strong, Jr., of McKean, a Jury to assess damages on the lands of General Reed and others, to be occupied for the use of that road.

☞ "*Kunkle's Nightingale Minstrels*," whose performance we have seen very favorably spoken of in most of our eastern Pennsylvania papers, it will be seen by our advertising columns, will give their first concert at the Reed House, on Monday evening next. They have been stopping at Buffalo for some days past, and, met with much success. As they are a Pennsylvania band, the only city the old Keystone has upon the lakes ought to give them a generous welcome.

The Charter Election.

The result of the first Charter Election in the City of Erie will be found below. It will be seen that the entire regular whig ticket, with the exception of High Constable, is elected—the Mayor by only *two* votes, however. The Democratic party, as a party, had no candidates. They very generally supported the Independent ticket, composed of candidates from both parties. Those marked with a "*" in the following table were the independent candidates.

East Ward.		*West Ward.*	
MAYOR.		MAYOR.	
T. C. Colt,	123	T. C. Colt,	163
Murray Whallon,*	139	Murray Whallon,*	144
HIGH CONSTABLE.		HIGH CONSTABLE.	
S. L. Foster,	131	S. L. Foster,	113
A. C. Lanning,*	139	A. C. Lanning,*	159
SELECT COUNCIL.		SELECT COUNCIL.	
A. W. Brewster,	138	S. M. Culpepper,	175
F. Schuender,	141	J. Zimmerly,*	264
C. M'Sparran,	135	W. M. Gallagher,	140
F. Mutterer,*	136	S. T. Nelson,*	91
C. M. Tibbals*	141	A. P. Dunlap,*	191
J. W. Hayes*	109	*Common Council*	
COMMON COUNCIL.		James Sampsel,	183
P. Metcalf,	127	Wm. A. King,	178
L. L. Moornier,	138	Thomas Dolan,	172
O. D. Spafford*	214	S. A. Wallace,	176
A. A. Craig*	214	D. G. Landon,*	272
Josiah Kellogg,	134	Adam Nicholson,	176
C. Sigel,*	140	M. R. Barr,*	93
G. A. Bennett,*	111	George J. Morton,*	96
C. B. Wright,*	142	John Hopkinson,*	87
F. Dattinger,*	109	C. Kirby,*	97
J. D. Dunlap,	134	S. Edgerly,	95

In the above, some of the regular whig candidates are marked with a "*"—they were upon the independent ticket, and consequently received a unanimous support.

Upon closely reviewing the result of Thursday's work we feel satisfied. Taking it on *high party grounds*, neither result it have been desired upon a party triumph had come, less success crowned the efforts of those Democrats and whigs who labored for the success of the independent ticket. We know that the assertion that "the *Obs ver* would never *open it*" was the stock in trade of the hell-keepers of the Market House Corner, and that it deterred many, who objected to having had more independence from voting against the regular whig nominees, who otherwise would have been glad to have done so. We find no fault with such—perhaps they did not know us better—perhaps they had rather any should be elected they deemed to be spotless, than to incur the risk of the "*Observer's* crossing over" a victory achieved by both whigs and Democrats. We say *perhaps*, but it strikes us that no man, by his oath, exercises the right of a freeman, would be deterred from doing his duty by so paltry an excuse. But as we said above, we are satisfied—the "old bunkers" who to accomplish an act of party meanness, disregarded their oaths of office, and refused to appoint Ladies supervisor of the streets, have been emphatically rebuked, not only in Lander's re-election, but by the narrow escape their favorite candidate for Mayor suffered. Our course upon this question has been fully vindicated by the people—not party—and now let the *Gazette* waive!

☞ The *Observer*, and the party whose organ it is, have been wont to refuse pay to indulge in much severe comment upon our contemporaries because of their alleged desposition to libel it over the working classes—in substance, charging that they always took care of themselves without regard to the effects of their conduct upon the industrial and producing portion of community.—*Gazette*.

We copy the above from the last number of the *Gazette* for the purpose of simply saying that it is *false*—false in fact and in inference! Neither is that its worst feature—it is *immaterial*. We can view it in no other light, for it is made in an article upon a subject with which such a charge, even if true, has no visible connection. Why make it, then, unless to figure this ex-Exhibitment's peculiarly erratic "*our mercantile citizens*," we are at a loss to say. We are no organ of the *Gazette*. Our business is here and not in opposition to that establishment. Whatever the *Gazette* says or does politically, is of little consequence, but our business is of quite a different nature, and in justice to ourself, and those dependent upon us, must be treated in quite a different manner. We therefore pronounce the above a falsehood, which every reader of our paper knows to be such, and which the very liberal support extended to merely "our mercantile citizens" stamped with a flattering brand. No paper in Erie, not even the *Gazette*, although the organ of a party largely in the majority, has or does receive a larger support from the business community; we are accused of slandering them, the *Observer*. How then can Editor who *implicates* one-fifth—who subscribes on his knees every Sabbath to the commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor"—could deliberately, and without provocation, attempt to injure another in this manner is beyond our philosophy. While we have heretofore looked upon our cotemporary as no very consistent politician, we have not doubted the straightforward uprightness of his christianity, but this bold, bad attempt to injure another at the expense of truth, forces us to place his professions in this particular upon a par with the other. But we have said enough. We care little whether the *Gazette* persists in, or retracts, this charge. Its *writing* Editor can do just he pleases, but perhaps it might be proper to suggest that until he can give some evidence of the truth of it he must wear the brand of *falsehood* upon his brow!

☞ The Tuscarora *Century* has some late news from Erie. It says the whigs of Erie had a "large" meeting last week, at which strong Scott resolutions, &c. were passed. This is news especially as it is a notorious fact that the whole thing was about the most complete failure of any political move we have seen lately. It died still-born.

☞ *A Great Bore.*—They are boring for a railroad through the Honsac mountain in Massachusetts, with a great steam auger. This is the *greatest bore* we know of except —Walker's letters!

☞ The Board of Directors of the Philadelphia and Liverpool Steamship Company, have decided to call their new ship, now building at New York, the *City of Pittsburgh*. The City of Pittsburgh, which it was the intention of the Company originally to name Pennsylvania, is well advanced towards completion and will be launched in June. It is expected she will be

☞ Somebody stole fifteen pigs from a [illegible] in the vicinity of Carlisle a few nights ago, and drove them off several or eight miles. He got caught and is now penned up in prison.

Justice to Democratic Policy—California.

In politics as well as morals it is well to occasionally review the past—to cast our thoughts as it were back over the scenes we have witnessed, the part we have acted, and wherever we find a bright spot, or a good deed, treasure the recollection up for future guidance, not only for ourselves, but for others. In our eight years of editorial life we have advocated measures, some of which have produced results astonishing even to ourself. In the foreground of these, and upon which perhaps some of the most important of the others rest, is the annexation of Texas. Faithfully and zealously, and with a firm belief that it would redound to the glory and welfare of the whole country, we added our voice to the general desire for the success of this scheme. It was successful. Texas came in, and who is there now that will deny the wisdom or the policy of the measure. Who would open the door by which she entered, and tell the "lone star" to depart. With Texas, came the Mexican war, and the acquisition of California and New Mexico. All these measures—all these conquests, all the glory and renown acquired in their prosecution and consummation, are due to the policy and the integrity of the Democratic party. The benefits to commerce alone which have, and will flow from these measures are various and important. Every day develops some new discovery, some new enterprise, and some new good upon the shores of the Pacific which otherwise would have been postponed for an indefinite period. The genius which conceived and had the nerve to accomplish all these measures—which amid the sneers and opposition of political foes, and the perhaps well-meant councils of professed friends, adhered firmly to the line of policy marked out by the campaign of '44, stands now we think fully vindicated. JAMES K. POLK has been gathered to his fathers, but the fruits of his labors, his genius, and his patriotism, are only just begun to be realized. Every arrival from California, that land of gold and enterprise, tells some new tale of the wonders and resources which are being developed upon the Pacific coast, and its islands. With the *Pennsylvanian*, we say, that amid the marvels of this region of marvels, and the concurrence of opinions that California is destined to live down all the prophecies of its foes—amid the blessings and benefits its discovery must confer upon the Commerce and Christianity of this Country, and of the world at large—let us not forget the ennobling policy that added the land of gold to the United States. Let us not forget that men, there at present most anxious to show their admiration of its resources and advantages, there are many, very many, who did not believe it "worth a dollar," or who denounced the acquisition of territory as an indemnity for the Past and security for the Future. It may be said that no effort should be made to remind the country of that which certain parties are anxious that the country should not remember, because it will only revive, as has been alleged, bitterness now extinguished. But let us be just. *Suppose California had been a failure, what a harvest of wrath the Democracy of the nation would have reaped!* Suppose the thousands and tens of thousands that rushed there with hopes of wealth, had all been left to starve amid the rocks and passages of an unknown region—perishing, like the crusaders of old, in countless masses. Suppose Commerce had poured its navies there only that they might rot on the bays of the Pacific? Suppose the Christian, instead of seeing new paths opened for the triumphs of the Bible, now saw the Heathen millions of the Pacific rolling over the new-formed State the fatal surges of an ancient and, heretofore impenetrable shell? What, then, would have been the result? Your whig sheepers would have been elevated into inspired prophets, and the stories that, afore-said famine and fraud, sterility and sorrow, would have been quoted against the friends of California with terrible effect. Those pulpits that rung with denunciation of the war, and with assaults upon the spirit of acquiring territory, would have caught new fervor in the same cause, from the spectacle of blighted fields, ruined ships, infidelity and pestilence among men and women. Where the reverse is the fact, shall not those who took the responsibility, who dared the prejudices and passions of parties and of fanatics, and who staked all upon the issue—shall not these have the honor with all the whole world accords to them?

What this policy we have referred to is doing for the commerce of the world for the civilization of mankind, and the spread of knowledge into hitherto dark corners of the earth is graphically described in the following from the New York *Courier and Enquirer*, a paper that was as bitterly opposed to the policy of the Democratic party, as any in the country. It says:

"The Cosmos of Alexander Humboldt once said, that California bridges the gulf-wark of the independence of China and Japan. That narrow belt of land has accessible points between the two oceans, than it has any American coast to Asia. For all purposes of commerce, that Isthmus has been as impassable as if it were a range reaching to the clouds. It has immovably locked up one of the most important gateways of maritime enterprise, and has made the Pacific a commercial waste and solitude in comparison with its neighbor main. The extent of which obstruction has retarded the growth of commerce and the spread of civilization, admits of no exact calculation.

But this great natural barrier, like almost every other physical obstacle, is fast disappearing before the resistless energy of these latter days. Canals and Railroads are rapidly overcoming its existence, and, for all practical purposes, the Atlantic and the Pacific will soon be united into one continued unbroken expanse of navigable water. A new track of commerce into the eastern world is to be opened, and influences will shortly be brought to bear upon the teeming millions of Eastern Asia such as have never before been experienced by them at one time began. Nothing is more certain than that a line of steam communication will soon be established between Panama or San Francisco and some port of China by way of the Hawaiian Islands. The distance between San Francisco and Canton by this route, is about seven thousand miles, but little more than twice the distance between this port and Liverpool. Coal is found in great abundance near Canton, and the supply for the Sandwich Islands may easily be procured from New South Wales, where it exists in inexhaustible quantities, and where there is every facility for shipping it; or from Central America, if the deposits there prove as extensive as has been stated. This line will complete the girdling of the earth by steam, and will permit the entire circumnavigation of the globe to be performed, from this city via Cowes, Rio Janeiro, the Sandwich Islands, Canton, Singapore, Ceylon, Aden, Alexandria, Gibraltar, and Southampton, in the brief space of 120 or 140 days. What a commentary upon the blindness of that science, which only a dozen years ago pronounced even the crossing of the Atlantic by steam power alone, a manifest absurdity.

It is certain that commerce, and that commerce alone, will bring the two hundred millions of China and forty millions of Japan into the pale of Christian civilization. No people in the world exceed these in patient enduring industry, and none have a greater aptitude for trade. The love of gain is one of the most active qualities of their nature, and this, with their characteristic quickness and keenness of apprehension, peculiarly qualifies them for trafficking pursuits."

☞ The New York *Herald* makes the following comparison between Houston and Scott, the two military candidates for the Presidency. We believe some of our officers in Mexico did claim to have *caught* Santa Ana's cork leg.

In intellect and inches they are nearly of a size. Gen. Houston, however, has the advantage over Gen. Scott in one military point.—He commenced the Mexican war and caught Santa Ana, who at that time had two legs.—Gen Scott finished the Mexican war but could not catch Gen. Santa Anna, though at the time he had but one leg. Gen. Houston then is pure military glory, is one leg in advance of Scott, as he caught Gen Santa Anna, when he had two good running legs, while with one leg only, he got away from Gen. Scott and his army of 20,000 men.

☞ A man found guilty of a felony at the Central Criminal Court, Boston, recently, entreated the court to "deal leniently with him, and give him a short imprisonment as he was particularly anxious to go to the great exhibition." We trust the Court granted his prayer, for certainly such a rogue would be a great curiosity in the Crystal Palace.

☞ The country in the vicinity of Corpus Christi, Texas, is fast improving and settling up with farmers and stock-growers. What a commentary is this upon the assertions of the whigs, a few years ago, that the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande was a *desert*.

☞ *Humbug.*—Van Liew's Minstrels, now preambulating the county, and attempting to delineate negro character and sing songs. They sucked a few here out of their "quarters" on Wednesday night.

For the Erie Observer.

Western Railroad Compromise.

The compromise of conflicting interests in our Western Railroads, such as would secure a speedy completion without prejudice to contracting parties and with a due regard to local interests, has been talked of until the people justly believed no effort had been or would be made to effect that much desired object. The people of Erie and Erie County felt a deep interest in the matter. They had a right to feel, and all their inquiries have been met with the assertion that a satisfactory arrangement could be made if it were not for the selfishness of a few designing men. I speak now of those who honestly believed there was room for a difference of opinion or a question of right involved in the respective charters, and not of those who basely truckle to the powers that be, regardless alike of their honor as men or the interest of community.

Without judging of the propriety of the citizens interfering to settle the difference between the Franklin Canal Company and the Pittsburgh and Erie Company, we will review the proceedings of a committee appointed by a public meeting in the Court House on the 29th ult. and subsequently, and hope the people will not be slow in meting out the proper reward. The meeting was called professedly to pass resolutions to support in any emergency the directors of the Erie and North East road in laying down the contemplated six feet track, and making the change of gauge at Erie as provided by law. The meeting was organized by a board well known to be hostile to the interests of the Franklin Canal Company, Hon J. M. Sterrett in the chair, but as the avowed purpose was to sustain the Erie and North East road, no one supposed any action would be taken to prejudice the rights of western interests. Resolutions were passed which were in the legitimate province of the meeting, and when that was done the object was accomplished; but this was not all—a committee, a majority of whom were openly hostile to the Franklin Canal Company, was appointed to confer with the Presidents of the two roads and report on the next Saturday evening. It was during Court and many from the country would be present. The time came, the crowd assembled, but the House was not opened and could not be until Mr. Foster was found. On his arrival he said he had not been requested to light up for the meeting. Thus far the committee had neglected their duty. Afternoon delay the house was found open, and the chairman of the former meeting called for the report. Col. Camp, of the committee, said they had met with the Presidents of the roads—had received their propositions, and he thought no compromise could be made, but asked for further time. The meeting was adjourned to the next Wednesday night, at which time the same trifling excuse was made, and another postponement asked. Monday night, the 12th, was fixed upon, some days after Court would adjourned. There was policy in this. The people had appointed a committee and had a right to hear their report. And why did they not make it? Simply because they dare not let the people know how deeply they were duped by the majority of the committee. It would never do to let them see and hear for themselves; their judgment must be formed by proper doses through a corrupt partizan press, the Erie Gazette, which is putting forth every exertion in the power of its sapient editors and their co-adjutors to make a little capital for political purposes. Can they deny it? No! They and the community well know that the thinking portion of our citizens, such as generally attend Court, would form for themselves if the truth was given them, and they feared the result. The adjourned meeting on Monday evening is more than ample proof of the fact. Judge Sterrett took the chair and called for the report. The meeting was numerously attended as is usual on occasions when the county is not represented. Col. Camp chairman of the Committee, stated they *had no report to make*, but would submit the propositions made by Gen. Reed and Mr. Galbraith. He did so, and also a smuggled supplementary proposition, which was not submitted in committee, and which the minority knew nothing of, though it was expressly agreed nothing should be received except in writing. Gen. Reed's proposition in behalf of the Pittsburgh road, contained not one fair offer to compromise, but asked the Franklin road to give up all upon the payment of *proper* expenses, of which they were to be the judge. Not an allusion did it contain in reference to a just remuneration for time and services, or to the engagements of the company. The smuggled supplement proposed to leave the whole matter to a vote of the taxpayers of the county which company should build the road. Neither of these propositions have the least resemblance of fairness, or show a disposition to compromise in any way, but on the contrary were evidently intended to drive Mr. Galbraith off the road if possible.

Mr. Galbraith's proposition was open, candid and characteristic of the man.—

He proposed to complete the road to the Ohio line in connection with the Cleveland Road which is now in a forward state.—That the Pittsburgh Company should put under contract forty-five miles of the south end of the Road, commencing at the junction of the Ohio road near New Castle, and also twenty miles of the north end from its junction with the Franklin Road—that as soon as the Pittsburgh Company completed the twenty miles they should have the free run of the entire Road to and from Erie—that all the earnings of the Franklin Road to Ohio, except running expenses and the interest on the loan, should be expended in completing the Road to Pittsburgh and when the Pittsburgh was completed, that company should have the *Whole Road* at its cost and the interest on the loan for its construction. This would give the Pittsburgh all the advantages of the western connection, to assist in building their road, without cost to them or the necessity of raising the half million of dollars to build the Lake Shore Road, and is only asking them to do what they wanted the Legislature to *compel* them to do, and for which they are now singing pæans to Walker, Reed & Co. for their efforts to pass the Bill.

If they desire a road to Pittsburgh, no more favorable plan of constructing it could be devised. If they are honest in supporting Walker for his attempts, they now can show their sincerity by doing their duty without compulsion.

Murray Whallon, Esq. spoke at length on the proposition—showing the feasibility of the arrangement—mildly reproved the chairman of the committee for the ungenerous insinuation that delay was made for political purposes, and moved—That the offer made by Mr. Galbraith was liberal and ought to have been accepted. The motion was received and warmly supported—calls for the question were repeatedly made to the Hon. Chairman grew terribly impatient, and almost in a passion declared the meeting adjourned, and left very much to the satisfaction of all present. C. B. Wright was then called to the chair, J. H. Fullerton, Secretary. The resolution was passed unanimously! *Sic transit gloria Monday*—Thus ended the farce.

Western Railroad and the Guage Law.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Franklin Canal Company, held at the office of the company in Erie, May 16, 1851, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the provisions of the act of the Legislature at its last session, regulating the width of track or guage of railroads west of Erie at four feet ten inches, are hereby adopted as binding upon this company and its terms accepted. JOHN GALBRAITH, *Pres't.*

Attest, *Wm. S. Lane*, Sec'y.

☞ It will be seen by the above that the company now engaged in building the road west of Erie have formally adopted the guage law and accepted its provisions. This settles the question of guage west even if the law should be inoperative, and must put to the blush the malignant assertion of certain Senatorial fabricators, that the Franklin Canal Company desired to carry the eastern guage through this county. It is in a striking contrast also to the open and shut game now playing by the Erie & Northeast Company, on this subject. While some seriously doubt whether the law will bind that company, unless its provisions are accepted, they still refuse to recognise it formally, but are evidently holding themselves in readiness for *contingencies*. The very men who have railed the loudest about the western guage, now refuse to adopt the provisions of the law and thus make it binding; and that too in the face of the *authorative* announcement of the New York *Tribune* that this question "*has been* amicably settled," and that the road "from Buffalo to Erie *will be* built of the Ohio guage." We may be mistaken, but circumstances compel us to warn our citizens to watch closely the *managing* gentleman who wields so powerful an influence in the direction of the affairs of the corporation that holds this matter in its power.

For the Erie Observer.

Last Monday Evening.

The long expected report of the Western Railroad compromise Committee has been made, and the respective propositions this week laid before the community.—Of their liberality and spirit of *compromise*, each citizen will, of course, judge for himself, and boldly acknowledge his convictions. It is not as much with these that this article would deal, but rather what occurred incidentally at the meeting on Monday evening. The Chairman of the Committee, on the call of the President, read the propositions, original and supplemental, of the two companies, and took his seat. The papers read were long, and from their nature necessarily difficult to be appreciated upon a single hearing. A member of the committee being present who well understood the subject ventured to present with the propositions verbally to the meeting, and give his opinion as a *citizen* of Erie county in regard to their comparative merits. He did so clearly, calmly and without perversion; and before taking his seat moved the adoption of a resolution which he considered to express the sense of the meeting in relation to each company's offer. If he was deceived the vote would have discovered the fact. At once an attempt was made to shut it out, based upon the exceedingly simple reason that as the meeting was only convened to hear the report of the committee "Now it is well known that the first meeting at which the committee was appointed, and of which the late meeting was but a second or third session, assembled for the avowed purpose of considering and acting as far as it legitimately could upon the western railroad interests. The head and front of one of these rival companies, and that too from which the offer to refer to the public and the subsequent refusal to hear a public expression both came, was quite anxious at the outset to accede to whatever "the people" would reasonably ask of him. Why then this opposition from certain quarters to a public expression when such action would be but in harmony with the previously expressed wish of the objectors? Can it be that nothing in excuse can be urged, except that the "grand jade" will whoa? To escape *responsibility*, the President and Vice President *fled* from their chairs. Discretion, his said, constitutes the better part of valor, but the *wisdom* of the *flight* may well be questioned. In common with others we have long been accustomed to honor independence of spirit and impartiality of conduct in the presiding personages of any and every public or private assemblage. The application is easily made.

A few words upon one other matter. The same member of the committee who proposed the resolution above referred to, before concluding, availed himself of the opportunity to make a few personal remarks explanatory of a charge that had been bandied about the streets, branding him with a desire to fan to roadrag fation for "political purposes." This he denied peremptorily, and demanded proof in support of the assertion. The Chairman of the Committee chose to appropriate the remarks and demand to himself, and after reasserting what it appeared he had elsewhere said, presented as crushing evidence of the truth of the charge, that "*Gen Reed, while on committee was annoyed.*" Has it come to this, that any one man's pleasure shall be the measure of all other men's minds in this community? Must our opinions, and conduct and reputations be irretrievably blackened whenever not carefully compared with the tastes and preferences of some single individual? If so, by all means have it known, that in cringing accordance therewith we may abjectly crawl at each returning morn to offer our *orisons* to his august presence, and in the tremulous tones of heart-deep humbleness *beg* an *oracle* for the day's gu dance. Oh, how we loathed for gentlemen to be reputed cha'ns, when in answer to the demand of the "political agents" they had no other reply than this. Certainly, it cannot be that these remarks will justly apply to some of them. A frank, bold, and speedy rejection of every such insinuation will gratify several true friends. Those who were present at the meeting will remember many misstatement of facts was been made.

Compromise Railroad Meeting.

In pursuance of adjournment a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Erie assembled at the court house on Monday evening, May 12th, Joseph M. Sterrett in the Chair, James C. Marshall, Vice President, and Jas C. Reed Secretary.

The object of the meeting being to receive the report of the committee appointed at a previous meeting to endeavor to effect a compromise between the Franklin Canal Company and the Pittsburgh and Erie Company, Irvin Camp, chairman of the committee, reported the following propositions as having passed between the respective parties in interest, and that no arrangement had been arrived at.

[These proceedings were received too late for insertion entire. The propositions may be found in the *Gazette* of this week, correctly given, except the *supplement* on part of Gen Reed, which was not heard by Mr Galbraith, President of the Franklin Canal Co., until it was read by Mr Camp, in the meeting, and therefore forms no part of the proceedings of the committee, but was got up after it was found that no agreement would be effected.] ED.

The report having been read, the following resolution was moved and seconded:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the proposition of the Franklin Canal Company is fair and reasonable, and ought to be accepted by the Pittsburgh & Erie Company, and that all further attempts to interfere with the important enterprise in which the Franklin Canal Company is engaged will be frowned down by an indignant community, whose rights and prospects have already been seriously injured by the obstacles placed in the way of that corporation in the prosecution of its work.

After some discussion between Messrs. Whallon and Camp, a motion was made and adopted that the report be received and committee discharged.

The question on the resolution was then called for and the chair decided it to be out of order, as there was no seconder to it. Several gentlemen then stated that they had seconded the resolution, and the question was again called for and the chair refused to put it as being out of order.

A motion was then made to adjourn, which was negatived by almost a unanimous vote. The chairman then declared the meeting adjourned and retired, as did also the other two officers.

On motion, C. B. Wright was called to fill the vacancy occasioned by the withdrawal of Mr. Sterrett, as chairman, and J. H. Fullerton was appointed secretary.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned *to meet again at the completion of the Western Railroad.*

CHAS B. WRIGHT, Chairman.

J. H. FULLERTON, Sec'y.

☞ The Washington organ of the Southern Disunionists, the *Press*, does not like the salutation of Mr. Donaldson, the new editor of the *Union*. That is about as favorable a recommendation of the *Union*, to the confidence of the great body of the American people, as they could wish. We have no doubt the Abolitionists of the North, who want to see the Union of these States dissolved as a means of freeing the blacks in the slave States, will join the *Press* in denouncing Mr. Donaldson's views. The extremes unite in this case, in opposition to the Democratic organ.

☞ We learn from the Mayville *Sentinel* that on Tuesday night last the steamboat Hellum Vale, which was built last season to ply on Chautauque Lake, was stolen from her moorings at Mayville, towed about one mile into the Lake, scuttled and sunk in about twenty fee water! The owners, Messrs. Whiteside & Bemus, had just got it thoroughly finished and well furnished, and it was to have made its first trip Wednesday morning.

Query.—What "guage" did the President and Secretary of the adjourned Rail Road meeting take, when they "flew the track," on Monday evening last?

SIFTINGS FROM OUR EXCHANGES,

WITH EDITORIAL DASHES BY A FREE PEN.

☞ Sir Charles Elliott, the "*man in the white hat*," who figured so extensively on the British side during the anpexation of Texas controversy, but who was outwitted by Sam Houston, is now the Colonial Governor of Bermuda.

☞ "*Manifest Destiny*"—The Chilian Government are calling in all their currency to coin a new one, same as that in the U. S. Dimes and half dimes, quarter dollars, half dollars, (both gold and silver,) quarter eagles, half eagles, whole eagles, two eagles and sundries.

☞ A woman in England recently testified in a court of justice that she had never lost sight of her husband for twelve hours together, at any one time, either day or night during a period of fifty years. She must have been loving or very jealous—perhaps both!

☞ *Not in the Bills.*—During the performance on Friday night at the theatre, Richmond, Va., by Miss Julia Bennett, the hero of the piece came forward, took a seat among the audience, and said he would not move till the Manager paid him $28 that he owed him.

☞ The less useful things are the more they interest us. The clown that throws a double somerset is much better patronized than the philosopher who undertakes to revolutionize society. The owner of the industrious fleas realize a fortune; had he got up an exhibition of the same number of industrious men, he would have brought up in court of bankruptcy. This is why Editors are so poorly paid.

☞ A crusty disappointed bachelor says woman always want something to lean upon. Like a grape vine, they are nothing without a support. For this reason a husband should be placed by the side of a young lady the very moment she comes out. What a stick is to sweet peas, so is the masculine gender to the female woman.

☞ He who advertises judiciously and extensively can afford to sell to his customers to better advantage than he who does not: because he adopts the correct means to multiply their number and secure to himself a much larger amount of business. He who does the largest business, can do it at the smallest percentage of profit—The readers of the Observer will *save* money by treasuring this up.

☞ Last week, some person maliciously obstructed the track of the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad by fixing a plank upon it, with one end projecting upwards, so as to pass through the locomotive upon striking it.—By this means a young neer, Joseph M'Westland, was killed, the plank passing through a part of the engine and throwing him off under the wheels of the locomotive—A young lady was also severely injured by being thrown from the car. A man named Horace Brooks, suspected of the crime, has surrendered himself for trial.

☞ An architect called at Derby's bookstore in Buffalo, and inquired for Hawthorne's last work, "The House of the Seven Gables," supposing it to be a book on architecture.

☞ *Lessers of the Cubanites.*—The Savannah Jeffersonian says it is rumored that General O'Hara, of Kentucky, was in or near Jacksonville, Florida, as well as General Lopez and General Gonzales. It was also rumored along the Southern Coast that there was near two thousand men in the vicinity of "Burnt Fort," and the Suwanee river.

☞ The Legislature of Michigan has established all laws for enforcing the payment of debts. A number of merchants have announced their intention to publish the names of all delinquents, "being well convinced (as they say) that no man of good intentions and honorable principles will allow himself to be thus posted before his neighbors and fellow citizens."

☞ *A Thorough Going Clay Man.*—G. W. Blackburn in a letter from Sarrimento City to his brother, one of the editors of the Minden (La.) Herald says:

"I am for Clay for the next President against the world, the flesh and the devil. If I live I will vote for him whether he is a candidate or not, if he lives—if he dies, I will vote for his ghost."

☞ In 1836 the consumption of spirituous liquors, beer and wine, in the United States, was computed at six hundred and twenty-three millions of gallons, and in 1850 at five hundred and eighty-three millions of gallons—a decrease in fourteen years of forty millions of gallons, notwithstanding the vast increase of population. This is encouraging to the friends of temperance.

☞ One Editorial Cousin of the Washington Examiner has been committing matrimony. Well, we don't know but he has just as good a right to starve a woman as any of the Editorial fraternity. But here is the announcement

MARRIED—On Thursday the 8th inst., in "Wesley Chapel," Washington City, D. C., by the Rev. Wesley Kenney, Thomas W. Grayson, Esq., senior Editor of the Washington Examiner, and Miss Lizzie M. Green, daughter of A. Green, Esq., of said City.

☞ Father Matthew, the celebrated temperance apostle, is now on his journey north. He is expected in Cincinnati in a few days.

☞ The Washington papers announce the death of Joseph Boyd, one of the volunteers under Decatur, when he boarded the *Philadelphia* frigate, in the harbor of Tripoli, nearly half a century ago. Of that gallant band numbering seventy souls, Commodore Morris is the only survivor.

☞ Robert Jenkins was arrested at Wheeling, on Friday last, on suspicion of having murdered his wife—her body having been found in his house, with several wounds upon it. The parties were both intemperate, and were in the habit of quarreling.

☞ The Whig Legislature of New York refused to submit to the people the question of creating a nine million debt, and the Whig leaders in New Hampshire voted against submitting to the people the naked question whether property and religious qualifications shall be abolished.

☞ There are 1800 papers published in the United States, which is 300 more than are published in all the rest of the world together. This is one of the results of a free government, which recognizes liberty of speech and thought to the fullest extent.

☞ Editors sometimes take things coolly. Here is the last case. "We see the Sheriff has advertised the Argus office for sale, during our absence. We hope the bidders will have a merry time of it. If the sheriff can sell it, he will do more than we ever could.—Like a damp percussion cap, we think it will fail to go off."

☞ *No Liquor on Sunday.*—The district attorney of Schuylkill county, in accordance with instructions, has ordered the proprietors of different hotels and licensed drinking establishments, to close their bars on Sunday, under the penalty of prosecution.

☞ A counterfeit Gold Dollar, well calculated to deceive, is described in the Philadelphia Ledger. It feels greasy to the touch, is rather thicker than the genuine, is of lighter color and has a dull, leaden ring. The wording "United States of America" and the word "dollar" are dull, and have not a sharp, clear appearance of those on the genuine.

WASHINGTON CITY, May 13

A horrible murder was perpetrated here last evening, by a man named John Day, who shot his wife Catharine, with two balls from a revolver, both of which entered her person, causing her death in a short time. She had been walking with her sister and seeing Day, she retreated, when he shot her as she was fleeing near her father's residence, her father (Gen. Fondley.)

They had not lived together for a month past. Day was arrested and is now in prison.

NEW YORK, May 14.

The steamship Cambria arrived at her dock at Halifax, May 13, at 7 o'clock. She has 30 passengers—20 for Boston and 10 for Halifax. She brings £5,000 in specie. She left Liverpool on Saturday the 3d inst., and passed the steamship Africa off Holyhead at 7½ P. M. on the same day.

The British and continental news is unimportant.—The all absorbing topic in England is the great exhibition which was opened by her Majesty on May day, in person, without disorder or accident.

On the 21 inst., the Russell ministry was defeated on a motion by Mr. Hume, to confine the operation of the property tax to one year. The Jewish disabilities bill was read a second time.

Emigration from England to Ireland continues unabated.

All danger of a ministerial crisis in Paris is over, and the old story is current that Louis Napoleon is making great efforts to prolong his term of office.

The Portuguese insurrection has been quelled.

Austria and Russia have demanded of the Sultan that he shall retain Kossuth and his fellow patriots 2 years longer. The Sultan is inclined to refuse and throw himself on the protection of England and France.

The overland mail from India had not arrived.

SUSPECTED MURDER.—Our community is much excited by reports of the horrible murder of a Mr. Pease, late of Pottsdam, N. Y.

The deceased, a farmer of very respectable connexions, and possessed of some property, about seventy-five years of age, left his house some four weeks since with $500 in money, and a good horse and carriage. When he went away he left a letter for his wife, saying that he had made up his mind to go to his sons at Kemptville, C. W., and if he did not return this way he wished her to go to Vermont where they have a married daughter residing, as he should be there before she would. It appears that he went to Canton and made some stop at the house of the woman accused of his murder, and from there crossed over to Canada with his horse and carriage.

This wretched woman, some years since, came to Canton with her first husband, a Mr. France, an invalid pensioner of the United States half pensioners in the Florida war, where he served a year. They went from Jefferson county to Can.

Her husband, France, about four years since, died under singular circumstances, but we believe no suspicion existed of an unnatural cause until the present lamentable developments.

It appears that the deceased and the woman accused, traveled some days in company under the assumed name of Mr. and Mrs. Freeman. At Kingston, the woman purchased three grains of strychnine, a poison, called *strychnine*. At night on the arrival of Kingston, Mr. Pease was taken sick, the woman nursing him, and suddenly died. It was supposed and the woman's father here and elsewhere that she had the poison. She also deposited in the bank in Kingston $600, to be sent to the Ogdensburgh Bank, to the credit of a young man managing her farm in Canton.

Circumstances attending the death of Mr. Pease, and the disposition of his property, and suspicion that Pease had died of poison, put over a magistrate. The murderess was in readiness to leave Kingston, awaiting her trial for murder. They have some explanation of the letter, the origin of circumstances surrounding her case, especially as made, her guilt is doubt is certain.

It was said to the peculiar features of this case, when it was known that a Mr. Smith, who married this woman in good faith, has [illegible] for her farm—not even having her name changed. He [illegible] and left her with two children, and by his first wife, [illegible] 72 years.

DIED.

On Saturday last, Mrs. Mary Jane, wife of C. W. Colhoon of this place, age 40 years.

On the 31 inst., in Greene, at the residence of her son-in-law, Alexander Dunbar, Mr. Joseph Mattox, aged 72 years.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

REED HOUSE HALL.
KUNKLE'S
Nightingale Ethiopian Opera Troupe,
WILL give a Concert at the above Hall,
Monday evening, May 19.
The performance will consist of a variety of Songs, Duetts, Trios, Quartettes, Choruses, with many new and popular Ethiopian Melodies, with the Burlesque of the Military Drill Sketch, and Rousing Glee and Tyrolese Singers. Concert programs, of which will be duly announced.

MASTER FLOYD,
The great and unparalleled performer of Female Characters, will appear on Monday evening in a Dance, in female costume, in which he will introduce the celebrated Highland Fling, as well as the beauty of the German Hornpipe, in the Highland costume of the
ELIXIR OF THE ETHIOPIC STAGE.
Admission 25cts. No children admitted unless accompanied by their parents or guardians. JOHN T. FORD, Agt.

For Sale.
I WILL sell at a very low price my house and lot situated on the South side of Eighth street, and directly east of the Episcopal Church. Those wishing to purchase will please call on my agent an attorney, W. S. Lane, Esq. Those knowing themselves indebted to me will please call and settle their accounts. Mr. Lane is prepared to receive payment without delay.
Erie, May 17.—1 WM. N. REED.

Executor's Notice.
NOTICE is hereby given that Letters Testamentary on the estate of Joseph Wilson, late of Green Township, Erie Co., deceased, have been granted to the undersigned. Therefore, all persons indebted to said estate will please call and make immediate payment to
DAVID MARSHALL, Exr.
Green, May 17 —6t ALEXANDER DUMARS, Exr.

SILKS—Ladies will find a good assortment, black, figured, stripe and Check silk just opened at
May 17, 1851. GEO. SELDEN & SON'S.

MANTILLAS Silk and Silk Lace for Trimming, for sale by
GEO. SELDEN & SON.

BAREGE de Lanes, Poplins, Lawns, Grenadines, &c., a large assortment.
GEO. SELDEN & SON'S

SUMMARY OF CALIFORNIA NEWS.

From the San Francisco Herald.

The rains, so long wished, for in vain, have come, when every one had surrendered almost all hope of any during this season. Shortly after the departure of the last mail the goods gathered, and at intervals ever since, up to the present, have discharged copious and genial showers, fertilizing the earth, and furnishing a plenteous supply of water wherewith to wash the dirt which had been heaped up in the diggings. Where there has been rain on the coast and in the plains, there has also been snow on the mountains, and every thing now betokens a more prosperous state of affairs than previously.—But this has not yet appeared to be the case. All the preparations and calculations of the miners in the principal mining districts for some time past, have been based upon the belief that there would be no rain this season, and it will consequently be some time before they can conform themselves to the unexpected change. But the prospects now are that the yields of gold will be better than for the twelve months back; and the effects must be felt here, though it will be a long time before trade can recover from the full effect of the vast influx of merchandise which has been poured upon us by exporters from all parts of the world.

We continue to receive cheering accounts from all portions of the gold region. The Cosumnes, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Mokelumne, American, Feather, Scott's, Klamath, and other rivers in the gold mining country, send favorable accounts.—The latest news from the region of San Diego renders it certain that valuable deposits of the golden mineral have been discovered there by the Mexicans, and reports from the adjacent portions of the State render it probable that the mines there will be found much more productive than has been supposed they would be.

One of the dredging companies to which we have heretofore referred, as preparing to operate, has at last got to work. During the week just passed the dredge steamboat Pompeius was set to work for the purpose of testing the capabilities of the machinery, and the richness of the bed of the river at the point, and the results of the experiment was a yield of over one hundred dollars per hour.

The quartz mining operations have also been crowned with signal success. Some of the leads are rich beyond all previous calculation.—One of these veins, at Nevada was sold for $5000. When the purchaser in a few days thereafter had run out $14,000, and dirt ready for washing which would yield $20,000 more. The rock in these veins so friable that in some places it can be crushed by the fingers. The machinery for crushing the quartz is, of course, very expensive, and it costs all of the possessing quartz claims have means whereon to purchase or erect machinery of the principal of these companies is Nevada, which is the most favorable manner for the miner; that is, the miner goes out the rock from his claim, and then sells out to the parties owning machinery, who crush it and extract the gold.

In connection with the enormous yield of the gold mines and miners, must be taken the fact, that the operations of the Assay Office, established here by Congress, have recently operated so favorably, that merchants and bankers, in order to obtain a share in the profits of that establishment, have been compelled to raise the price from sixteen dollars the average at which the gold is assayed. The Assay Office is now allowing fifteen dollars per ounce, and it is probable that it will be found necessary to increase the allowance. This is caused by the fact that the Assay Office pays the gold to the miner, because it is thereby enabled to coin an equal gold value in eagles and half eagles which it stamps, not being compelled to pay out coin in payment of duties, &c., as is the case with the banks of deposit, except at specified periods. The bankers and merchants suffered a heavy loss by the Custom House system, and it is hoped that the Congress of the United States will not be induced to establish a similar system here.

Agricultural prospects have heightened rather than diminished since the commencement of the rainy season, of which we continue to have occasional showers, and there are now no fears expressed for the result of the farmer's labors—it will doubtless be abundant.

The Legislature has been actively engaged in framing the business of the session, and the last week or two has been of great importance, from the various laws which have become enacted. Among these is that regulating the "Foreign Miners' Tax Law." This is a law long desired by the citizens, and, unquestionably, a very wise and judicious one, in its effects. The chief evils of it has had reference to the practical working of the law, and the difficulties attending its execution. Under the present system of collection, the Sheriff and his deputies have to visit every part of the State where foreigners are known to be engaged in mining, and collect the tax of $20 per month from each individual. This has been found to be a very difficult task, and in some places it can be evaded by the Sheriff. The machinery for executing the law is a very complicated one, and will require to be altered in some manner, so as to render the collection more certain and easy. The principal objection to the present system is, that the tax falls on the poorer class of miners, and not on the wealthy capitalists who employ them. It is contended that the tax should be collected from the latter, and not from the former, as the latter are the persons who derive the benefit from the labor of the miners. The Legislature has already been visited by a number of gentlemen from the country, who have urged some amendments to the law, and although the purport of what they have said has not been made public, it is understood that they have suggested a change in the system of collection, and that the tax should be collected from the employers of foreign miners, instead of from the miners themselves. This change, it is contended, would be attended with less difficulty, and would be more equitable in its operation. It is probable that the Legislature will adopt this suggestion, and thus render the law more effective and beneficial to the State.

Among the other laws passed by the Legislature, is one for the protection of the game of the State, which will be found very beneficial to the sportsmen of the country. Another law has been passed, which will be found of great importance, and which, in different manner, have become laws since the last mail. One of these is that regulating the "Foreign Miners' Tax Law." This is a law long desired by the citizens, and, unquestionably, a very wise and judicious one, in its effects. The chief evils of it has had reference to the practical working of the law, and the difficulties attending its execution. Under the present system of collection, the Sheriff and his deputies have to visit every part of the State where foreigners are known to be engaged in mining, and collect the tax of $20 per month from each individual. This has been found to be a very difficult task, and in some places it can be evaded by the Sheriff. The machinery for executing the law is a very complicated one, and will require to be altered in some manner, so as to render the collection more certain and easy. The principal objection to the present system is, that the tax falls on the poorer class of miners, and not on the wealthy capitalists who employ them. It is contended that the tax should be collected from the latter, and not from the former, as the latter are the persons who derive the benefit from the labor of the miners. The Legislature has already been visited by a number of gentlemen from the country, who have urged some amendments to the law, and although the purport of what they have said has not been made public, it is understood that they have suggested a change in the system of collection, and that the tax should be collected from the employers of foreign miners, instead of from the miners themselves. This change, it is contended, would be attended with less difficulty, and would be more equitable in its operation. It is probable that the Legislature will adopt this suggestion, and thus render the law more effective and beneficial to the State.

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To the Sick and Afflicted!

CERTIFICATES and Testimonials, sufficient to fill every column of this paper, can be produced, setting forth the wonderful virtues of

Dr. Swaynes Celebrated Family Medicines.

DR. SWAYNE'S COMPOUND SYRUP

OF WILD CHERRY.

The Original and Genuine Preparation

CONSUMPTION, Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Liver Complaint, Spitting Blood, difficulty of Breathing, Pain in the Side and Breast, Palpitation of the Heart, Dyspepsia, Sick Headache, Croup, Broken Constitution, Sore Throat, Sciatica, Dropsy, and all diseases of the Chest, Blood, Liver and Kidneys, the natural consequence of Colds.

DR. SWAYNE'S

COMPOUND SYRUP OF WILD CHERRY!

Another Home Certificate—Great cure of EZEKIEL THOMAS.

Dr. H. Swayne—Dear Sir:—Being for a length of time, with a very violent cough, with pain in the side and breast, accompanied with chills, short fits of breath, loss of appetite, night sweats, &c., I was induced by various remedies which were recommended highly in the papers, but gradually grew worse. The violence of my cough was such that the blood rushed profusely from my nostrils when the paroxysms came upon me; indeed, I was in a state of almost exhaustion, and prostrated, and the hour of my departure seemed to be at hand. At this time you recommended to me your Compound Syrup of Wild Cherry, which I procured from Dr. Swayne, corner of Eighth and Race streets, Philadelphia, and I am happy to say that after using two bottles of your Syrup, &c., I was entirely restored to health, and able to pursue my usual occupation. I consider it an invaluable medicine in cases of consumption, and say that one that should be known throughout the land. It persons would purchase the original and genuine article, as prepared by you, and not tamper with the many worthless preparations which are at present in circulation, and thereby put a stop to the practice, it might be the means of saving many valuable lives. I freely offer this statement for the benefit of those who are suffering as I was.

EZEKIEL THOMAS.

Cherry st., three doors west of Seventh Street, Phila.

VERY IMPORTANT CAUTION.

Be particular to enquire for Dr. Swayne's Compound Syrup of Wild Cherry, as some unprincipled individuals have stolen the name of Wild Cherry, thinking to forgo a reputation from the name established. Remember the genuine is put up in square bottles, covered with a yellow wrapper, stone engraving, with a portrait of Dr. Swayne on the top, and his signature all other is counterfeit.

Swayne's Celebrated Vermifuge.

"A [illegible] Dyspepsia, Cholera Morbus, [illegible] Sick Headache, children or adults, and [illegible] Medicine ever offered to the public."

This [illegible] which has proved successful for a long time, and [illegible] by all who have tried it, to be far superior to any [illegible] to the taste at the same time effectual in [illegible] other medicine ever employed in diseases for which it is recommended. It not only destroys worms, but it invigorates the whole system.

Letter to Dr. Swayne from Andersontown Ia.

Dear Sir:—[illegible] purchased a bottle of your Vermifuge, the [illegible] of which I used by its due discharges of all the first week, [illegible] the second. It is now with confidence I put the people [illegible] recommend with a full assurance [illegible] gravel, with [illegible] of Dr. Swayne's Vermifuge, [illegible] other remedies.

T. SHARP, P.M.

Directors of the Keystone Mutual Life Insurance Co. Harrisburg, Pa.

[illegible] prompt manner in which our claim [illegible] company in the State and as [illegible] such institution, and the promptness [illegible] Office. Among the many [illegible] the prompt [illegible] Life Insurance Company [illegible] Dr. Swayne's Vermifuge [illegible] Medicine ever offered to the public.

This [illegible] which has proved successful for a long time, and [illegible] by all who have tried it, to be far superior to any [illegible] to the taste at the same time effectual in [illegible] other medicine ever employed in diseases for which it is recommended. It not only destroys worms, but it invigorates the whole system.

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T. SHARP, P.M.

NOTICE OF MISTAKES.

Persons [illegible] Vermifuge is now put up in square bottles.

[illegible] name is spelt correctly—

SWAYNE.

CLEANSES AND PURIFY!

DR. SWAYNE'S SUGAR-COATED SARSAPARILLA AND EXTRACT OF TAR PILLS.

Are a new [illegible] purifying a healthy state of the Liver and Bowels, acting as an alterative, changing the state of disease, which is so common to some individuals, and for the [illegible] make them healthy and very valuable.

B. H. Hanson, [illegible] Ind., under date June 5th, 1850. Your Medicines [illegible] Sugar-Coated Sarsaparilla and Tar Pills, [illegible] Send on a fresh supply. April 10, 1850—Send [illegible] Medicines. We are [illegible] effecting great cures in this section.

The Sugar-Coated Sarsaparilla and Tar Pills can be obtained at most [illegible] in this country, and Wholesale and Retail at

S. W. corner of Eighth and Race Streets, Philadelphia.

For Sale by the following Agents.

ERIE COUNTY.

Carter & Brother, No. 6, Reed House	Erie.
J. H. [illegible] No. 3,	Waterford.
W. P. [illegible] & Co.,	Girard.
S. A. [illegible]	Fairview.
N. [illegible]	Fagundus.
W. & J. [illegible]	Mead's Mills.

CRAWFORD COUNTY.

[illegible]	Cambridge.
[illegible]	Woodcock.
[illegible]	Evansville.
[illegible]	Adamsville.
[illegible]	Ashtabula, Ohio.

[illegible] are [illegible] greatly. 1 y2

KEYSTONE MUTUAL

Life & Health Insurance Co. of Harrisburg, Pa.

THIS Company [illegible] insure lives on more favorable terms [illegible] company in the State and as [illegible] such institutions, and the prompt [illegible] Office. Among the many [illegible] the prompt [illegible] Life Insurance Company [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] commission merchant [illegible] amount of $5,000 on his life with [illegible] Company of Harrisburg, on [illegible] and paid his [illegible] and died in a fit of Nightmare [illegible] two days after he received his policy. His widow, Penelope Schoyer, received [illegible] within 20 days after his death, $5,000 [illegible] His widow's receipt and letter of acknowledgement below.

Pres. and Directors of the Keystone Mutual Life Insurance Co. Harrisburg, Pa.

ENCOURAGE SCHOYER.

[illegible] the forethought of a Clerk [illegible] pastor of Presbyterian Church [illegible] County, Pa., took out a policy on [illegible] June, 1850, for $5000. He died of Lyrgeon [illegible] Nov 1-50; but by his provident care [illegible] his bereaved family his Policy of $5000, [illegible]

Rates of insurance, [illegible] Company [illegible] the Secretary at his office, No. 29, Market [illegible] Stevens Smith, Agent for Erie County, Office [illegible] & Reed's Store.

J. [illegible] J. H. [illegible] Pres't.

Conflagration.

THE [illegible] to all customers and the [illegible] still to be found at his old stand, [illegible] he will be pleased to show [illegible] a call to the largest stock of Clothing ever [illegible] Erie, among which will be found black, [illegible] Dress Coats, plain and fancy Pants, Satin [illegible] Fancy Vests, Drawers, Overhauls, Shirts, [illegible] &c., not like other goods, our neighbors [illegible] East and represented as their own manufacture, [illegible] own to make; to prove which, I will warrant [illegible] to be well made. I have just received [illegible] Summer Fashion, and am prepared to get [illegible] to order, on short notice, and give a man [illegible] fit. All garments made by me warranted [illegible] if they [illegible] under the head of Clothing, and not [illegible] them. As I am not doing business [illegible] the Reed and Forward [illegible] I can sell cheaper [illegible] purchased at any other establishment [illegible] in this city.

MOSES KOCH.

Erie, April 1st, 1851.

SPRING TRADE!

J. [illegible] has just returned from [illegible] and is now receiving a [illegible] of Goods, which will be found [illegible] the following [illegible]

[illegible]	Men's	Congress Gaiters,
[illegible]	"	Oxford Ties,
[illegible]	"	Calfskin Boots,
[illegible]	"	Morocco "
[illegible]	"	Brogans,
[illegible]	Calf	"
[illegible]	Kip	"
[illegible]	Thick	"
[illegible]	Kip	Boots,
[illegible]	Thick	"
[illegible]	Boy's	Kip "
[illegible]	"	Calf "
[illegible]	"	Brogans,
[illegible]	"	Morocco Brogans,

April 17.

CARTER & BROTHER,

No. 6, Reed House,

[illegible] are enabled to fill the orders of Physicians, [illegible] no schools with every article in their [illegible] as to enable the intelligent physician or [illegible] with reasonable certainty. Their terms [illegible] to suit all reasonable persons.

SUGARS.—Loaf, crushed, pulverized, Coffee crushed, Porto Rico, New Orleans, Havana Sugars, together with every article in the Grocery Store can be found at

MOORE'S GROCERY STORE.

ARTISTS' MATERIALS.—Such as Canvass, Brushes, round and flat Hair Pencils, Pallet Knives, Glass Slabs, Knives, Colors in Tubes, Poppy and Nut oil, Mastic Varnish, Megilp Oil &c.

Jan 31. CARTER & BROTHER.

PURE [illegible] EXTRACTS—

[illegible] Vanilla, [illegible] Bergamia, [illegible] Cinnamon, [illegible] Neroli, [illegible] Citronella, [illegible] Jessamine, [illegible] Jockey Club, [illegible] Jessamine, [illegible] Jessamine, [illegible] Jessamine